

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

HABITATS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

General Wildlife Habitat Management

The following general wildlife habitat management objectives and prescriptions apply, as appropriate, across all habitat types. Prescriptions specific to particular habitat types can be found in cover type-specific Common Elements.

Management Objectives

- Maintain, enhance, and restore native plant communities (at a landscape scale whenever possible) to support a diversity of wildlife and fish, including both game and non-game species.
- Where possible, manage for larger blocks of habitat and a continuum of habitats from lowland to upland. Also, establish and maintain linkages, including hydrologic connections, between habitat blocks to create travel corridors for species movements over time.
- Monitor, maintain, and enhance game species habitat to support populations at levels that allow sustainable regulated harvest.
- Protect and enhance habitats and populations of rare species, including endangered, threatened, and special concern species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).
- Monitor, prevent, and control populations of invasive species and eradicate them where feasible.
- Protect cultural sites and features from disturbance and degradation when conducting habitat management.
- Provide opportunities for habitat and wildlife research and public education consistent with management and public use objectives.

Management Prescriptions

- Evaluate non-forested areas within or adjacent to larger blocks of forested habitat for suitability to convert to forest to increase forest block size. Convert these areas to a forest type appropriate for the site where feasible and where conversion does not conflict with an existing management objective.
- Maintain native upland brush on sites where it exists that are at a transitional stage between grassland and forest habitat.
- Actively manage old fields and pastures to create larger grassland blocks by removing fence lines, encroaching brush, and isolated patches of trees.
- Convert cropped land to native cover types or surrogate grasslands except where farming practices are being used to aid habitat restoration efforts or enhance wildlife populations and hunting opportunities.
- Enhance existing habitats through seeding and planting.
- Maintain shrub wetlands at appropriate sites, particularly in areas that do not have high potential for management as sedge meadow, wet prairie, or wet-mesic prairie.



- Use water level manipulations at flowages and impoundments to manage wetland vegetation and improve wildlife habitat.
- Fill or plug, ditches, break drain tiles, and construct scrapes to improve water level management and aid wetland restoration efforts, except where these are being used for fish spawning, fish nursery, or migratory passage.
- Maintain existing dikes and water control structures. However, some structures may be removed, and others added, where necessary after evaluation and consultation between appropriate programs.
- Use nest boxes, platforms or similar devices as appropriate to enhance reproduction of desired wildlife. Where natural nesting substrate develops, transition away from artificial nesting support.
- Comply with [NR 40 \(invasive species rule\)](#) regulations and guidelines for preventing the arrival of new invasive species to Wisconsin and slowing the spread of those already here. Follow [invasive species BMPs](#).
- Control populations of established invasive species using appropriate techniques including prescribed fire, flooding, mechanical control (e.g., mowing, cutting, pulling), chemical control (e.g., herbicide application), or biocontrol.
- Follow all applicable [Broad Incidental Take Permits/Authorizations](#), including those for bats, common activities, grassland and savanna management, and no/low impact activities.
- Maintain current maps of known cultural sites and features. Follow appropriate regulations (e.g., Section 44.40, State Statutes, Manual Code 1810.10) when proposing or planning any management activity that has the potential to disturb a cultural site.

